



TOWN OF BELMONT
REGULATIONS FOR PROTECTION AND PRESERVATION OF
PUBLIC SHADE TREES DURING CONSTRUCTION

I. PURPOSE AND APPLICABILITY

The purpose of these Regulations is to provide for the protection of Public Shade Trees from adverse effects of construction activities in order to ensure the long term health of such Trees and thereby promote the health and welfare of the public. These Regulations shall apply to the construction of any new building or other structure, the construction of any exterior addition, extension or alteration of an existing building or other structure, the expansion or alteration of an existing driveway, or the establishment of a new driveway on any Project Site abutting a public way.

II. ROOT PROTECTION

Proper precaution should be taken to protect the root system of public shade trees located adjacent to the Project Site. Generally, the root system is most vulnerable within the limit of the drip line of the tree. The drip line begins at the trunk of the tree and extends to the limit of the branches of the tree.

The limit of the drip line shall be delineated before construction begins with temporary construction fencing or other barrier sufficient to prevent activities from occurring within the limit of the drip line of the tree. In no case shall activities occur within the drip line of a public shade tree.

Activities restricted from occurring within the limit of the drip line of the tree include, but are not limited to, stockpiling backfill material, stockpiling construction materials, and the parking of vehicles.

III. BARK PROTECTION

Construction activities should avoid any kind of trenching or soil disturbance close to the trunk of the tree.

Wooden tree guards shall be placed around the trunks of all public shade trees located adjacent to the Project Site to protect the bark from accidental damage and to alert workers and equipment operators of the importance of working cautiously near public shade trees.

VI. ENFORCEMENT

Town of Belmont Public Works and Code Enforcement personnel will monitor the Project Site for compliance with these Regulations. Where the health and welfare of a public shade tree is in question, further review may be necessary by the Tree Warden. The Tree Warden will impose fines and forfeitures per Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 87, Section 2.



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Enforcement Procedures

All certified plot plans submitted for the construction of any new building or other structure, the construction of any exterior addition, extension or alteration of an existing building or other structure, the expansion or alteration of an existing driveway, or the establishment of a new driveway on any project site abutting a public way shall include the size and location of all public shade trees abutting the frontage of the lot of the project site.

Community Development staff will review the plot plan to check for the presence of public shade trees abutting the project site and within the limits of the proposed project.

Upon determination that a public shade tree is within the limits of the proposed project, a copy of the "Regulations for Protection and Preservation of Public Shade Tree During Construction" will be provided to the applicant.

Community Development staff will verify the placement of protective elements prior to submitting the Building Permit application for final approval.

Community Development staff will monitor the project site during all inspections for compliance with the shade tree regulations.

All violations to the regulations will be reported to the Tree Warden for enforcement of Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 87, Section 2.